

Bainbridge Island and Kitsap Volunteer Research and Monitoring Opportunities

Bainbridge Island Beach Seining Project

Sponsor and Partners: City of Bainbridge Island, Suquamish Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Funding Source(s): Pacific Salmon Enhancement Grant (Suquamish Tribe), City of Bainbridge Island General Fund.

Description: The Bainbridge Island Beach Seining Project utilizes volunteers to conduct a 3-year baseline inventory of many nearshore species around Bainbridge Island. Volunteers get to experience and observe nearshore ecology first hand – including sampling shallow nearshore waters with a beach seine net; identifying and measuring fish and other species; and discussing the diverse habitats being sampled. No prior experience, expertise, or ownership of special equipment necessary.

Volunteer recruitment Status: Currently seeking 4-6 volunteers every other week.

Contact Information: Peter Namtvedt Best, City of Bainbridge Island (206-842-2552, pbest@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us) or Paul Dorn, Suquamish Tribe (360-394-8441, dorn@suquamish.nsn.us)

Project web page: <http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/seine>

Bainbridge Island Water Quality Monitoring Program

Sponsor and Partners: City of Bainbridge Island, 1,000 Years Institute, Battelle Marine Sciences Laboratory, US Navy, Kitsap Health District, Suquamish Tribe, Puget Sound Action Team, WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, others, and Volunteers

Funding Source(s): FY2005 Washington State Water Quality Grant (grant), City of Bainbridge Island General Fund (match)

Description: the City of Bainbridge Island is seeking to initiate a comprehensive nearshore and freshwater monitoring program with the help of volunteers as well as local, tribe, and state partners. If we receive grant funding, the program will begin in 2005. The first phase will include historic analysis and study design. The second phase will include a pilot implementation of the program in a few watersheds and nearshore areas. Upon finalizing the study design, the City will begin implementation of the program with partners. Significant opportunities will exist for volunteers to participate in important research about the Bainbridge Island environment.

Volunteer Recruitment Status: Currently seeking volunteers or will be in the near future, e.g., depending on grant funding, organization, etc.)

Contact Information:

Stephanie Moret, Water Resource Specialist
City of Bainbridge Island
Public Works Department – Engineering
280 Madison Avenue North
206-842-2016
smoret@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us

Peter Namtvedt Best, Planner
City of Bainbridge Island
Dept of Planning & Community Development
280 Madison Avenue North
206-842-2552
pbest@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us

Stream Monitoring Training

You are all invited to attend the Stream Monitoring Training that is scheduled for Sunday, June 6 at Stillwaters Environmental Center. Training will include classroom instruction and field instruction by the Stream Team Coordinator for Kitsap County, Val Koehler. Training will take about 2 hours, sometime between 9:30 am to 3 pm. You will get the exact schedule and more information when you sign up.

This is also the date for our regular monthly stream monitoring; Val will go out with our monitoring teams to the usual sites and give pointers while they are in the field. New trainees will be able to accompany the monitors to the field sites.

PLEASE RSVP as soon as possible, by email to Joleen@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org, or call Joleen at 360-297-2876.

Carpenter Creek Stream Monitoring

Sponsor and Partners: Cutthroats of Carpenter Creek, a program of Stillwaters Environmental Center in Kingston

Funding Source(s): Supported by Kitsap County Stream Team

Description: Monthly monitoring of 9 water quality parameters: D.O., Fecal Coliform, Nitrate, pH Temperature, Phosphates, Turbidity, Streamflow and conductivity. Done by trained volunteers under the direction of a QAPP, with supervision and support by Kitsap County. Volunteers spend about 1 – 2 hours on the stream every month, on a Sunday.

Volunteer Recruitment Status: If volunteers can't make it to the training (see above) on June 6, they can be trained in the field during the year.

Contact Information: By email to Joleen@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org, or call Joleen at 360-297-2876.

Apple Tree Cove Bird Count (Estuary Bird Monitoring)

Sponsor and Partners: Stillwaters Environmental Center, Kitsap Audubon

Funding source(s): None

Description: Semi-monthly count of all the birds in the estuary and Apple Tree Cove. This is being done in conjunction with a major estuary restoration project, which is funded by Army Corps of Engineers, Kitsap County, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Bird Count is at 8 am every first and third Mondays of the month. Meet at Arness Park on South Kingston Road where it crosses the estuary (just off W. Kingston Road).

Volunteer Recruitment Status: We always welcome a few new birders to help out. This will continue for several years and we can use more volunteers for continuity as our current group tires out.

Contact Information: By email to Joleen@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org, or call Joleen at 360-297-2876.

Carpenter Creek Estuary Monitoring (Estuary Water Quality Monitoring)B

Sponsor and Partners: Cutthroats of Carpenter Creek, a program of Stillwaters Environmental Center, Kingston

Funding Source(s): Supported by Kitsap county Stream Team, Community Salmon Fund (Kitsap County and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

Description: Monthly monitoring of water quality in the estuary and salt marsh. Done by trained volunteers under the direction of a QAPP, with supervision and support by Kitsap County. This program is also being done in conjunction with major estuary restoration project, which is funded by Army Corps of Engineers, Kitsap county, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board. This program has not started yet as we are in the process of working with Sea Grant staff to determine the type of data to collect, where it will be used, and then selecting the equipment to purchase. The Community Salmon Fund provides funding for equipment.

Volunteer Recruitment Status: We definitely will need more volunteers than the group we have for stream monitoring, as there will be several sites in the estuary/salt marsh to monitor monthly. Complete training will be provided. At this point, people can get their names on the list to be contact as soon as we are ready to begin, which may be this summer or fall.

Contact Information: By email to Joleen@stillwatersenvironmentalcenter.org, or call Joleen at 360-297-2876.

Liberty Bay Nearshore Habitat Evaluation and Enhancement Project

Sponsor and Partners: Lemolo Citizens Club, Liberty Bay Foundation

Funding Source(s): Sponsored in part from a DOE grant through US EPA 319 Funds and through collaborative partnerships.

Description: Our goal is to protect and enhance the health of the bay by restoration of habitats, native plants, improving water quality, education and community stewardship. We are in the process of revegetation, benthic sampling, and shoreline inventory. We have completed 2 years of monthly water quality sampling to date.

Volunteer Recruitment Status: Currently seeking volunteers or will be in the near future, depending on grant funding, organization, etc.) Always seeking volunteers. Log on to website and click on Events to find out more information.

Contact Information:

Luis or Kathleen Barrantes
c/o Liberty Bay Foundation
17212 Lemolo Shore Drive
Poulsbo, WA 98370
360-697-5815
fax: 360-697-5851
www.libertybayfoundation.com
volunteer@libertybayfoundation.com

Kitsap Benthic Macroinvertebrate Biological Monitoring Program

Sponsor and Partners: Kitsap County Stream Team

Funding Source(s): CWA Section 319 Grant, Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management

Description: The Biological Monitoring Program began in 2000 with funds for a CWA Section 319 Award from the Department of Ecology for three years. Benthic Macroinvertebrates are the small, bottom dwelling animals that live along the stream bottom. They serve as excellent indicators of stream quality b/c they show the effects of both long and short term pollution events, as well as the cumulative effects of pollution. Additionally, they are relatively easy to sample and identify, and may show impacts from habitat loss not detected by traditional water quality assessments.

Volunteer Recruitment Status: The Stream Team is continuing the project along the same 21 sites with potentially more sites this year. Thus we are always eager to work with and train new volunteers who are interested in getting involved with the program!

Contact Information: Val Koehler, Stream Team Coordinator, (360) 337-4601 or e-mail vkoehler@co.kitsap.wa.us

Kitsap Revegetation Projects

Sponsor and Partners: Kitsap County Stream Tem

Funding Source(s): Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management, Department of Community Development

Description: The Revegetation Projects that the Stream Team implements are plantings, usually streamside, that use native vegetation to ensure a greater chance of survival of the newly installed plants and to prevent non-native vegetation such as weeds from encroaching. A healthy riparian zone, or buffer of native plants surrounding a creek, is very important to the health of the watershed. The native plants in the riparian zone help increase the water quality of the creek in several ways: they filter out pollutants in surface run-off before they reach the creek; the roots of the plants anchor the soil, preventing the release of fine sediment into the creek; and the trees provide shade to keep the water temperatures cool in the summer. Vegetation also creates better habitat for salmon. The trees planted eventually drop or become “recruited” as woody debris into the creek. Woody debris forms pools thereby providing refuge for salmon and other fish needing a place to rest and hide from predators. Also, overhanging branches are habitat for bugs, which become food for salmon. A creek’s health is dependant on what surrounds it.

Status: Revegetation projects are implemented in the fall and early spring.

Contact Information: Val Koehler, Stream Team Coordinator, (360) 337-4601 or e-mail vkoehler@cp.kitsap.wa.us.